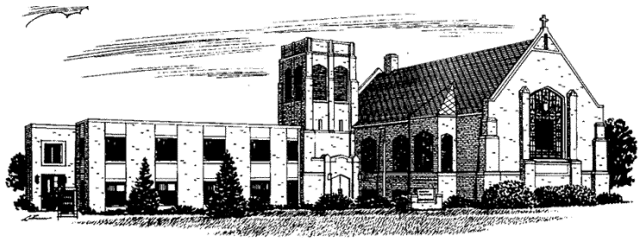


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

November 2014

"Stewards of God's Love"

For several months now, the council at its monthly meeting has conversed about one of Saron's vision statements. This month we talked instead about our stewardship emphasis, "Stewards of God's Love", and how that "fits" as a statement of vision that helps us fulfill our mission of *joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!*

As stewards we are caretakers, those who have the responsibility – yes, the "response-ability" – of managing what God has given us. Because God has loved us, giving God's very life for us in Jesus, we have the ability to respond by sharing that love with others. That is not a quick and easy kind of love, but a love that is deep – forgiving, risk-taking, community building, and joyful. It takes our hearts and our hands, our time and our abilities, and our financial gifts. Yes, it takes all of our being. And, it takes all of us to make it happen! We work together to plan mission and ministry – whether worship, education, caring for our facilities, or reaching out to our neighbors near and far – all to better proclaim and share God's love for all. We also work together – with our gifts of time, talent and treasure – to make it a reality and support the ministry entrusted to us. With the Spirit's help, we do it with joy trusting that God leads us on our way.

Pastor Joan

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Chime Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ruth Harris** is at Royalton Manor, 288 Peace Blvd Street, St. Joseph, **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at home.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in November 2014.

Nov. 4 - Laurel Gacek
7 - Meredith Gacek
8 - Andrew Marquardt
11 - Rosemary Bell
13 - Carter Hohman
15 - Coanne Hohman
19 - Brent Dipert
22 – Laraine Taylor
23 - Jean Pearson
Ruth Ball
Mary Kay Brown
25 - David Lundgren
27 - Gene Embree
28 - Melanie McCammon
29 - Dan Granger
30 - Denise Cook

November Anniversary Wishes …..

Nov. 1 - Ryan and Kelli Christman
4 - Burt and Jean Pearson (65 years)
5 – David and Patricia Young
21 - Mark and Deborah Vollmer
22 - Walter and Sally Schmuhl
John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome Harper Morgan Brown, son of Erin and John Brown, through Holy Baptism. Harper was baptized on October 19.

Addresses Requested

Fall is here, which means some of Saron's young adults are headed off to college! Please let the church office know your child's new address since we know that college kids seem to move a lot!! Thank

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday November 2 –
All Saints Day
Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday November 9
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday November 16
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8-12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday November 23
Christ the King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday November 30
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Prayer

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which will include lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Flowers for Worship

Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash.

The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. Please bring back the empty vases to give back to the florist. THANKS!

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

First Communion Instruction

A class for those desiring to take their First Communion will be held yet this Fall. If your child is interested, please contact Pastor.

Adult Inquirer's Class

A gathering for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith from the Lutheran perspective or joining Saron is being planned. If you are interested, please let Pastor know.

Sunday School Teachers!

We are actively looking for more teachers to fill the ranks at Saron's Sunday School. Depending on how many teachers we have, you will teach once or twice per month. We are looking for anyone of adult age that is excited to share the Good News with the children of Saron. The foundational teaching of the Bible will allow children to be as excited about Jesus as our adults are! *Contact Scott Gaspari at scottgaspari@outlook.com if you are interested, or have any questions.*

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day

You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

Thursday Morning Study

The Thursday morning Bible study is studying the Apocrypha. The texts of the Apocrypha are essential reading for filling in the 400-year gap between the Old and New Testaments. A key resource for understanding the New Testament's background, our purchased edition for study includes notes, maps, charts, illustrations, introductions to the books, and an extensive set of articles that will complement your reading of Scripture. We will meet November 6 and 13th and then take a break until after Christmas. All are welcome. The study is at 9:30 a.m. Books (Apocrypha and Study Guide) can be ordered for $40.00. See Pastor or sign up in the narthex.

Men's Weekly Bible Study

All men are invited to our Tuesday Weekly Bible Study at 6:00 p.m. Led by Pastor David Slater, we are exploring Genesis. At 7:00 pm sharp, we end our study and head out to Players for social time accompanied with our own choice of beverage and snacks (or dinner). Come join us to learn more about our faith and to get better acquainted with other men of Saron. Questions? Contact Bob Kynast (269-921-2786; bobkynast@gmail.com or David Slater (269-281-0848; Davidslater102@gmail.com).

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will be on November 1st, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

1st Sunday Book Group

Join us on November 2nd, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge to discuss **The Signature of All Things**, by Elizabeth Gilbert. Spanning much of the 18th and 19th centuries, Gilbert's novel follows the fortunes of the Whittaker family, especially botanist daughter, Alma. The book chronicles "the moment in history when all the old assumptions about science, religion, commerce and class were exploding into new ideas" (Amazon.com). This book is too complex to describe. It needs to be read, digested and discussed.

Sunday, December 7th, our selection for discussion is **The Invention of Wings,** by Sue Monk Kidd. Beginning in the early nineteenth century, the intertwined lives of Sarah Grimke and the slave she owns, Hetty "Handful" Grimke, evolve over 35 years into a most compelling story. Both women struggle against the limits of being a woman at that time in history and allow the reader to learn more about the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements.

Don't miss either one of these opportunities to share your love of reading with others. Questions? Call Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

Outreach

Michigan Blood Drive -October 2

Wonderful news! Once again Saron reached the goal that was set for Saron by Mi. Blood! Their goal for us was 16 people to attempt to donate and we did it - 13 donors were successful in giving. Big thanks to Joyce Marquardt and Marilyn Lucy and her famous pretzels!!) who kept the drive running smoothly.

Mark your calendars, our next BLOOD DRIVE will be held in FEBRUARY, 2015.

Thanks for supporting this valuable OUTREACH project that benefits our community.

Keith Stevens

S.M.A.R.T. Tutor Program-

The Benton Harbor SMART tutoring program is off to a wonderful start! This is a one hour a week tutoring progam with one student. This Fall, Saron members - Jan Stevens, Dave Bradley, and Joan Oleson and Jim Manore are tutoring - Do you have an extra hour to make a difference in a child's life? You may begin tutoring at any time!

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen -

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen - September 25
A smile, a nod, a "Thank you," a "God Bless You", or no reaction at all, are reasons why Saron serves its monthly meal at the Soup Kitchen. The need is REAL and we are happy to make someones day a little brighter, by showing we CARE.
Thanks cookie bakers: Sandy Seymour, Beth Roll, Linda Pater, Kathy Cowall, Irma Gorman, Kathie Bradley, and The Burrow family. Servers in September were : Betty Ross, Pastor Joan, Richard and Marlene Schalon, Ruth Ball and Mary Alice Brunner.
Proverbs 22:9 - "Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor."
Thank you, Jan Stevens

***** LARGE CANS OF FRUIT ARE NEEDED**

Used Eye Glass Collection

The Lions of St. Joseph Township would like to thank all of the people of Saron for you contribution of glasses to our global mission to assist people to see better. The collection box is still available for all to continue to put old or no longer needed glasses in.

"Remember this is a great way for your house or dwelling to lose a little weight by shedding those unwanted glasses."
Thanks, Keith Stevens

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

The Saron Church Women Annual Meeting will meet on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the church lounge. All women of Saron are welcome to attend. Business matters will be discussed and voted upon. Thankoffering will be collected. Betty Appel will be the hostess.

Lutheran World Relief Items Donated

Saron Church Women thanks everyone who contributed items for Lutheran World Relief. The total was 74 personal care kits, 8 fabric kits, and 48 bars of extra soap. Thanks, also, to David and Kathie Bradley and Donna Rohweder for transporting everything to the collection site in Portage. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be used by many people in need. Thanks, again.

WOMEN'S RETREAT NEWS

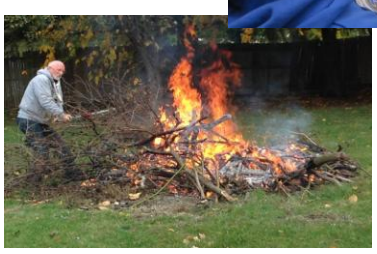
Our annual women's retreat was held on **Sat. Oct 4** at Linda Pater's home. Sister Nancy Brousseau led the study, "Living in the Presence of God."

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Fall Festival with St. Paul's Episcopal in St. Joseph, and St. Augustine's Episcopal in Benton Harbor.



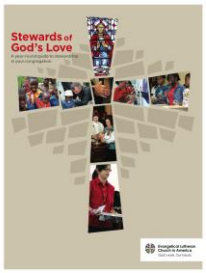
Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39



Stewards of God's Love will continue to be our stewardship emphasis throughout 2014-15. "The apostle Paul writes, 'And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.' (2 Cor 9:8) Stewardship is the way in which we use all our resources that God has entrusted to our care so that we can love God and our neighbor. **Stewardship is about love."** www.elca.org/growingstewards, pages 5, 7

Please join us in November as we come together to celebrate all that God has provided for us in abundance and then share with others. **On November 16, Commitment Sunday,** we can also enjoy a pancake breakfast served by Saron's men and turn in our commitment sheets for 2015. On **Commitment Sunday,** we consider all that God has done for us and prayerfully consider how we can give back and support God's work at Saron in 2015.

Join us at Saron as we share our gifts as "Stewards of God's Love."

November 2	Our Relationship with God
November 9	Our Relationship with Stuff
November 16	Relationship with our Neighbor
	Commitment Sunday
	Pancake Breakfast 9:30-10:30

God's Work. Our Hands.

Council News

Attendance Record	
09/28/2014	*85*
10/05/2014	*87*
10/12/2014	*82*
10/19/2014	*100*

Saron's Council Members – 2014

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Secretary, Learning*
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Steve Bell (429-0239) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Youth*
Connor Ashley – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Frieda Williams – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office; 983-2475 home) – Pastor

**liaison*

Facilities

WINTER COATS

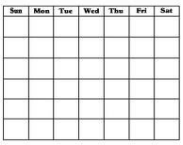
The Women's Service League will again be collecting slightly used coats at Saron. Watch for the collection box to arrive by the front doors.

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEEDS HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren , Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

Thank you to everyone who helped with mowing this summer!

A COUPLE OF REQUESTS



Is your group using the building? Please make sure you are placed on the church calendar. As the building gets used more and more we need to make sure that we don't have conflicts regarding space. Requests for building use will be processed through the church office.

Also….

Help us be good neighbors! If you are taking out the garbage at Saron, please make sure it gets into Saron's garbage can next to our "out building" near the alley and not in one of our neighbor's garbage cans. And if the garbage can is full, place the plastic bag next to the garbage can or if you have the ability to take it home, we invite you to do so. This includes recyclables. Thank you so much!

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

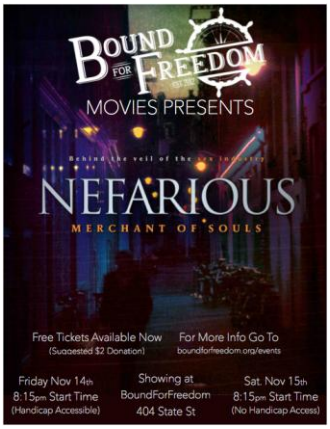
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

Did you know that you, individually, as a Thrivent member, have opportunities and access to Thrivent programs and resources to help you strengthen your congregation and community? Reach out with an Action Team. If you are a Thrivent member or have interest in becoming one, please contact Pastor or the church office with your name so that we can give you more information on this new Thrivent endeavor.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Saron is a member of the Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, dedicated to advocacy and education. The following is information about a movie sponsored by "Bound for Freedom" – a downtown St. Joseph store devoted to the issues surrounding human trafficking and whose owner is also a task force member.



From their website:

Nefarious: Merchant of Souls is a hard-hitting documentary that exposes the disturbing trends of modern day sex slavery. From the first scene, Nefarious gives an in-depth look at the human trafficking industry, showing where slaves are sold (often in developed, affluent countries), where they work, and where they are confined. With footage shot in over nineteen different countries, Nefarious exposes the nightmare of sex slavery as experienced by hundreds of thousands daily, through the eyes of both the enslaved and their traffickers. Nefarious features expert analysis from international humanitarian leaders, and captures the gripping and triumphant testimonies of survivors in order to galvanize hope and vision.

For More Info & Trailer Visit:
nefariousdocumentary.com/

Bound for Freedom, 404 State Street, St. Joseph
1st Showing
8:15pm on Friday, November 14th
(handicap accessible, roughly 25 seats available)

2nd Showing
8:15pm on Saturday, November 15th
(no handicap access, roughly 50 seats available)

Please call, email, or stop in store to pick up your spot reserving ticket. Movie runtime is 96 minutes and due to the graphic nature of human trafficking viewer discretion is advised.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Pauline Ngonyani
Reader/Com.Assist: Jan Stevens
Acolyte: Troy Burrow
Ushers: Fritz Knauf and Jim Manore
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Nov. 9 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Jan Stevens
Reader Intinction: Wendy King
Acolytes: Brandon Burrow
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Nov. 16 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minster: Marilyn Frey
Reader/Com. Assist: Sally Schmuhl
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Allen Snyder
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Nov. 23 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Intinction: John Hoodlebrink
Ushers: John Olson and Steve Bell
Acolyte: Danielle Hohman
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Nov. 30 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/Intinction: Eric Standen
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer.

Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

Nov. 2 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Com. Assist: Denise Cook
Acolyte: Drew Huff
Ushers: Dave and Kathie Bradley
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Judi Huff
Building Closing: Jerry and Ruth Stelling

Nov. 9 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Drew Huff
Reader Intinction: Mary Kynast
Acolytes: Colin Ashley
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Krin Jurgensen
Building Closing; Dan Gustafson and Bill Oleson

Nov. 16 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minster: Colleen Lundgren
Reader/Com. Assist: Matt Bradley
Ushers: Betty Appel and Pat Breyen
Acolyte: Grand Gacek
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Karen Johnson
Building Closing: Bruce Huff

Nov. 23 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Dennis Lundgren
Reader/Intinction: Jim Oleson
Ushers: Jerry and Ruth Stelling
Acolyte: Connor Ashley
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Linda Huff
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

Nov. 30 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Connor Ashley
Reader/Intinction: Bill Oleson
Ushers: Jack and Cheryl House
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Betty Appel
Building Closing: Ken Ark

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

November 2014

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Thanksgiving Worship -
Tuesday, November 25, 2014
7:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Com./Child. Ser. 2 *All Saints' Sunday* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 6:30 p.m. 1st. Book Group *Daylight Savings Time Ends*	3 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	4 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study *Election Day*	5 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Endowment Meeting	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Chimes 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	7 C.W.U. World Community Day	1 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast Turn Clocks back one hour 8
Intinction /Children Ser 9 *22nd Sunday after Pentecost* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	10 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Newsletter Articles Due	11 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Support Committee	12 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Saron Church Women Annual Meeting at Church	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Chimes 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	14	15
Holy Com./Child. Ser. 16 *23rd Sunday after Pentecost* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes Commitment Sunday Breakfast 9:30 a.m.	17 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m Saron Council Meeting	18 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Pastor – Vacation	19 9:30am Golden Hammers ----------	20 6:00 p.m. Chimes 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal ----------	21 ----------	22 ----------
Intinction /Children Ser 23 *Christ The King* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes----------	24 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group ----------Pastor back	25 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship	26 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	27 *Thanksgiving Day*	28	29
Intinction /Children Ser 30 *1st Sunday in Advent* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes					October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31